

Application No. 10/502,344
Preliminary Amendment
April 21, 2006

REMARKS

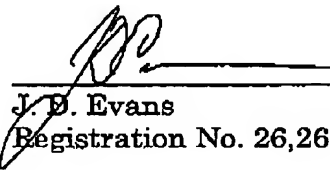
The foregoing amendments are submitted to clarify the claims in response to a telephonic inquiry from Examiner C. Woodward in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention. As demonstrated, inter alia, by the examples set forth on pages 13-15 of the specification, the invention relates to a protein comprising a tandem of two (or more) domains of a ligand (e.g., growth hormone or leptin) which bind to a receptor, in which the two (or more) domains are connected by a linker containing a proteolytic cleavage site. In other words, two or more receptor binding sites of the ligand are joined by the linker.

Favorable action on the application is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

April 21, 2006


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